

COMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

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Control: 12342
Rec'd: DECEMBER 20, 1958
1:52 PM

UR FROM: BERLIN

MR TO: Secretary of State

S NO: 503, DECEMBER 20, 2 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 503, REPEATED INFORMATION POLAD, USAREUR, 158,
PARIS, LONDON, MOSCOW UNNUMBERED.

NR

FOLLOWING IS TELEPHONE MESSAGE SENT DEC 17 BY SOV COMMANDANT
BERLIN GEN ZAKHAROV TO GENERAL HAMLETT:

OP

RC

BEGIN TEXT

CB

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IC

IT WAS REPORTED TO ME TODAY THAT AT 0949 HOURS, YESTERDAY
16 DEC THIS YEAR, SIX AMERICAN TANKS VIOLATED BORDER OF
GREAT BERLIN BY PENETRATING INTO TERRITORY OF GDR IN
KOENIGSWEG AREA.

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS ONE AMERICAN TANK 15 AND ONE TROOP CARRIER
REAPPEARED IN SAME AREA TOGETHER WITH 15 AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO
DEPLOYED ALONG BORDER. DURING SAME TIME ONE AMERICAN HELICOPTER
WAS FLYING ALONG BORDER.

YOU NO DOUBT UNDERSTAND THAT THESE AND SIMILAR ACTIONS CREATE
DANGEROUS SITUATION IN BORDER AREA AND MIGHT PROVOKE UNNECESSARY
COMPLICATIONS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU DO NOT WISH
COMPLICATIONS AND THAT YOU WILL TAKE MEASURES TO PUNISH GUILTY
PARTY AND TO PRECLUDE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN FUTURE

END TEXT

FOLLOWING REPLY FROM GEN HAMLETT WILL BE SENT ZAKHAROV DEC 22:

BEGIN TEXT

I REPLY TO YOUR TELEPHONE MESSAGE OF 17 DEC 1958 CONCERNING

PERMANENT

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-2- 503, DECEMBER 20, 2 PM, FROM BERLIN

AN ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE SOVZONE OF OCCUPATION. A CAREFUL AND THOROUGH INVESTIGATION HAS DISCLOSED THAT EVIDENTLY YOU WERE ERRONEOUSLY INFORMED SINCE NO VIOLATION OF ZONAL BORDERS WAS PERPETRATED BY U.S. FORCES. THE U.S. TROOPS YOU MENTIONED WERE CONDUCTING ROUTINE TRAINING WITHIN THEIR NORMAL TRAINING AREA AND AT NO TIME DID THEY CROSS OVER BORDER.

I AM QUITE AWARE THAT ANY ACTIONS SUCH AS YOUR INFORMATION PORTRAYS MIGHT PROVOKE UNNECESSARY COMPLICATIONS AND I FULLY AGREE WITH YOU THAT WE SHOULD BOTH AVOID INCIDENTS OF ANY NATURE. SINCE THIS AREA IS CONTINUOUSLY USED BY U.S. TROOPS, AND TO PRECLUDE POSSIBLE OCCURRENCE OF ANY INADVERTENT CROSSING OF BORDER BY MY TROOPS OR THOSE UNDER YOUR CONTROL, I SHALL TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO EXTEND THE FENCE NOW EXISTENT IN THIS AREA TO PROVIDE A PHYSICAL MARKING OF ZONAL BORDER.

END TEXT

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